

Annual Report & Community Guide to Court Programs and Services



Welcome to the Ventura Superior Court's first-ever Annual Report & Community Guide to Court Programs and Services, capturing the highlights of court activity in 2001.

In this guide, you'll learn about the many unique services and programs we provide, as well as some interesting facts of which you may not be aware.

The Ventura Superior Court

is one of which you can be proud, and we want it to remain that way. As one of the top courts in the nation, we continually strive to make the court as accessible and user-friendly as possible. We seek to remain on the cutting edge of technology and the numerous opportunities and conveniences it can provide.

We are always seeking better and new ways to do things, so let us know what you think. Go on-line to our website www.courts.countyofventura.org to send us your comments and suggestions or mail your response to : Superior Court Administration, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93009. We look forward to hearing from you! ■

Community – Focused Planning

In order to identify the court-related issues and questions that exist in Ventura County, the court established a Community-Focused Court Planning Team that began holding focus group meetings with various sectors of the community in December 2000. By the end of September 2001, a total of 12 meetings were held with representatives of ethnic, senior citizen, religious, education, business, bar association, law enforcement, disabled community and neighborhood groups. Five key questions were asked in each of the meetings:

- What are your expectations of the courts?
- What do you like about the courts?
- What don't you like about the courts and what do the courts need to improve?
- What trends do you think the courts should know about that might affect how your community does business with the courts in the next five years?



- What information about the courts would you like?

Feedback received from the focus group meetings has been compiled in a summary report that will be used by the court for long-range strategic planning to guide the court's community education strategies and goal setting.

The court continues to seek community feedback as we work to reach the goals that have been set and focus on future needs. ■

GOAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

- Funding was committed and programming and design phases started on the Juvenile Justice Complex Courthouse.
- The Children's Waiting Room was relocated at the East County Courthouse to a more spacious location.
- Self-Help Center services were expanded at the East County Courthouse.
- The court's website was enhanced to allow the public to conduct more court business over the Internet.
- Business and technology requirements were defined for the electronic transfer of traffic tickets to the court from law enforcement agencies.
- Technology was implemented that allows the public to transact jury business from kiosks or on the Internet.
- Courtroom visual presentation technology (Exhibit Station) was implemented.
- Seating and space utilization for the Jury Assembly Room at the Hall of Justice was studied and recommendations were produced.
- A process to summon jurors directly to the East County Courthouse was developed.
- Recommendations for improvements to existing civil case management procedures were made.
- Existing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) programs utilized by other courts were identified and evaluated.
- Integration of appropriate cases involving children that come under the Juvenile Delinquency Court jurisdiction into the Unified Family Court, was studied and recommendations were made.
- Participated in a grant with the Sheriff's Department to provide a continuum of care and services to mentally ill misdemeanor offenders who meet certain criteria.
- An on-line training module for enhancing staff proficiency in the use of PC software applications was made available.
- Workplace diversity training was provided for all staff.
- Community-focused planning meetings were held with various sectors of the community throughout the year.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer service opinion cards are available at all court counters in both English and Spanish. Collection boxes are located throughout both courthouses or the card can be taken home and mailed to us later. Each card is reviewed and all remarks are entered into a database. All comments are appreciated and help us to serve you better.

2002 GOALS

- Improve communication to the public about services offered by the court through the use of the Internet, cable television and other alternative outlets.
- Develop and implement a plan to revitalize and better coordinate the schools outreach programs.
- Design and implement a program to better track the location of files and to enable quicker and easier access to files by the public.
- Develop a training plan tailored to the needs of each classification of court employee.
- Continue the process of transition from county to state funding.
- Secure adequate office space, including leasing offsite space and relocating the Self-Help Center to the Law Library.
- Develop a merit/performance-based evaluation system.
- Complete the integration of the new criminal case management system (Vision) into the court’s operations, including completing original modules and needed modifications, converting to Oracle, and training for all staff.
- Develop and implement a civil case management system project management plan.
- Develop performance indicators/ measures for each program and department to tie into strategic planning and budget processes.
- Assess the impact of opening the Juvenile Justice Complex on Ventura court operations and develop an operational plan for the new center.
- Analyze the results of the Family Law Case Profile Project and implement any recommendations to enhance family law case management.
- Implement courtroom support staff enhancements, including enhanced training, ergonomic equipment, and an analysis of the need for additional resources.
- Develop and implement a program to address the backlog of citations.
- Expand Homeless Court to the East County.
- Research information from other courts about neutral exchange programs for child custody and visitation with the idea of possibly starting one here.

Self-Help Legal Access Centers...Need Help?

The Superior Court offers Self-Help Centers to assist people who are representing themselves in court. Information is available by means of books, videos, form packets with instructions, and brochures. Trained staff are available to provide informational assistance to those needing help in understanding the materials or completing court forms.

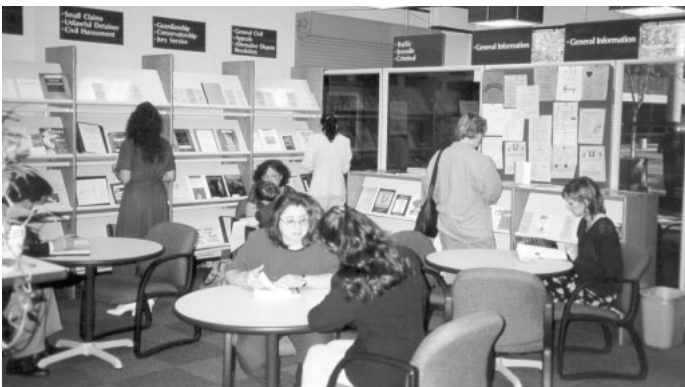
Staff can provide information on a variety of legal issues including: Adoption, Conservatorship, Guardianship, Name Change, Small Claims, Evictions (Unlawful Detainer), Appeals, General Civil Cases, Jury Service, Traffic Violations and Juvenile Matters.

Court staff cannot represent individuals in court or give legal advice, but they can explain how to research the law and prepare pleadings. This helps self-represented litigants develop a better understanding of the court process and be better prepared when they appear in court.

The center does not charge for assistance, but a nominal fee is charged for forms. There is no income eligibility requirement to use this service.

Self-Help Centers are located at the courthouses in Ventura and Simi, as well as in Oxnard’s La Colonia neighborhood, where it provides bilingual services to predominately Spanish-speaking and low-income residents. The court also has a Mobile Self-Help Center that makes stops throughout the county.

The number of people who have been



assisted by the Self-Help Centers continues to steadily increase. From September 1996 to the end of 2001, more than 75,500 people have been assisted in our Self-Help Centers. ■

Locations:

**Hall of Justice
Ventura County Government Center
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Room 106
Ventura, California 93009
(805) 654-3962**

**East County Courthouse
3855-F Alamo Street
Simi Valley, California 93063
(805) 654-3962**

**Oxnard Self-Help Legal Access Center
1500 Colonia Road, #20
Oxnard, California 93030
(805) 483-4842**

**Ventura and Oxnard Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Simi Valley Hours:
Monday only
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

New Juvenile Justice Complex

The county’s new Juvenile Justice Complex currently under construction will include a Juvenile Courthouse in its final phase. The 45,000 square foot court facility with two juvenile dependency courtrooms, two juvenile delinquency courtrooms and two general trial courtrooms is scheduled for groundbreaking this June and completion in November of 2003.

The first phase of the project, a 420-bed detention and commitment facility to replace the Clifton Tatum Center and Frank A. Colston Youth Center, is scheduled to open in September 2003. Located on 45 acres at 433 Vineyard Avenue in Oxnard, the new facility will improve services for minors and their families. ■

FACTS ABOUT THE VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT / DID YOU KNOW?

The Ventura Superior Court is the 14th largest court system in California.

Ventura is the 64th largest county in the nation.

The Ventura Superior Court has two courthouses, the Hall of Justice in Ventura and the East County Courthouse in Simi, plus a Self-Help Center in Oxnard and a Mobile Self-Help Center.

There are 31 judicial officers: 27 judges and 4 commissioners

The court has a staff of 353.

The court collects over \$35,000,000 per year in fines, fees (including civil filing fees and deposits) and various assessments.

Approximately 181,500 cases of all types are filed each year.

There are approximately 168,500 dispositions (cases closed) annually.

Self-Help Goes Mobile

The court’s Mobile Self-Help Legal Access Center brings the same self-help services to those who find it difficult to come to the Self-Help Legal Access Centers in Ventura or Oxnard. The Mobile Self-Help Center is a specially equipped 35-foot motor home modeled after public library “bookmobiles.” It makes regular stops at the following locations on the days and times indicated:

- Ventura**

Catholic Charities

303 N. Ventura Avenue

Every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- Oxnard / Port Hueneme**

Salvation Army

622 W. Wooley Road

Every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Ojai**

Park and Ride Lot

Corner of Fox Street and Ojai Avenue

Every other Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- Santa Paula**

Santa Clara Valley Job & Career Center

725 E. Main Street

Every Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon



Thousand Oaks

Thousand Oaks Library

1401 E. Janss Road

Every other Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please note that schedules are subject to change. Heavy rains or high winds may prevent the Mobile Center from making its scheduled visits. To check on a location or time, please call: (805) 654-3962 or (805) 483-4842.

Additionally, the Mobile Center makes periodic visits to Leisure Village in Camarillo. Please call one of the above numbers for schedule information.

The Mobile Self-Help Center was the first center of its kind in the nation. It is part of the court’s public outreach effort to improve access to justice for all members of the community. ■

The Family Law Self-Help Center

The court’s Family Law Self-Help Center offers free information on divorce, legal separation, child custody and visitation disputes, child and spousal support, property and debt division, and restraining orders. The center is staffed by two Family Law Facilitators, a Court Processing Assistant, and volunteers who are available to provide informational assistance to those needing help understanding the materials or completing court forms. The center can also provide information regarding the status of a case or court appearance and general information regarding all aspects of family law.

Because of overwhelming demand, the center must limit services to no more than the first 35 persons who sign in each day, except Mondays, where the limit is 10. Staff cannot represent individuals in court or give legal advice, and the center cannot assist anyone who is being represented by an attorney.

The Family Law Self-Help Center also offers a basic overview class specifically designed to assist litigants acting as their own attorney. The class is held every Thursday afternoon at

2:00 p.m. in Room 301 of the Hall of Justice in Ventura. No appointment is necessary.

The Family Law Self-Help Center is located in Room 400 of the Hall of Justice in the Ventura County Government Center. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Family Law Self-Help Center at (805) 662-6661 or through the court’s website at **www.courts.countyofventura.org**. ■

- Ventura Hours:**
- Monday.....1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- Tuesday.....8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- Wednesday.....8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- Friday8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- Oxnard Hours:**
- Wednesday.....8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- Simi Valley Hours:**
- Thursday.....8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

LAWYER REFERRAL HOT-LINE

The Lawyer Referral Service telephone Hot-Line in Room 208 of the Hall of Justice connects you directly to the Ventura County Bar Association’s Lawyer Referral Service. A 30-minute consultation with an attorney is \$30.

THE COURT IS HIRING/ CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career opportunities with the court are listed on our website and updated weekly. Positions can range from clerical and accounting to information technology and mediation. A printable copy of our application form can even be downloaded directly from the website. For more information, visit **www.courts.countyofventura.org**.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

The Ventura Superior Court provided interpreters in 34 foreign languages during 2001. The most exotic languages were Tzutzil, Zapoteco de Valle, Mixteco Bajo, Pampango, Punjabi and Tongan. The most common languages were Spanish, Farsi, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Our interpreters have also translated many court forms and documents into Spanish.

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

En todas las oficinas del tribunal hay empleados que hablan español. (Spanish-speaking employees are available in all court offices.)

INFORMATION TO GO

Brochures on most court programs are available in the public lobby of each court office. Information ranges from Self-Help assistance to marriage ceremonies and the Children’s Waiting Room.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Ventura Superior Court is always looking for volunteers. Applicants should have a positive attitude and good people skills. A variety of assignments are available, including assisting in the Children’s Waiting Room and Jury Services office. For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Eleanor Kessel at (805) 650-4017.

SPEAKER’S BUREAU

The court offers a Speaker’s Bureau to acquaint community groups and organizations with the court units, functions and services.

Topics include:

- Appeals
- Civil and Small Claims
- Traffic Citations and Parking Appeals
- Family Law and Adoptions
- Jury Services
- Family Court Services
- Grand Jury
- Interpreting Services
- Collection of Fines and Fees
- Automation and Technology
- Children’s Waiting Room
- Records Management
- Multi-Door Dispute Program
- East County Courthouse Services
- Juvenile Traffic

For more information on how to schedule a speaker, contact Margie Borjon-Miller at (805) 654-3620

The Annual Report & Community Guide to Court Programs and Services was produced through a grant from the California Administrative Office of the Courts.

Report Review Committee: Superior Court Administration

Editor: Jay Widdows Court Finance & Planning Unit

Design: Wiser Design wisersdesign@ojai.net

Technology – Did you Know...?

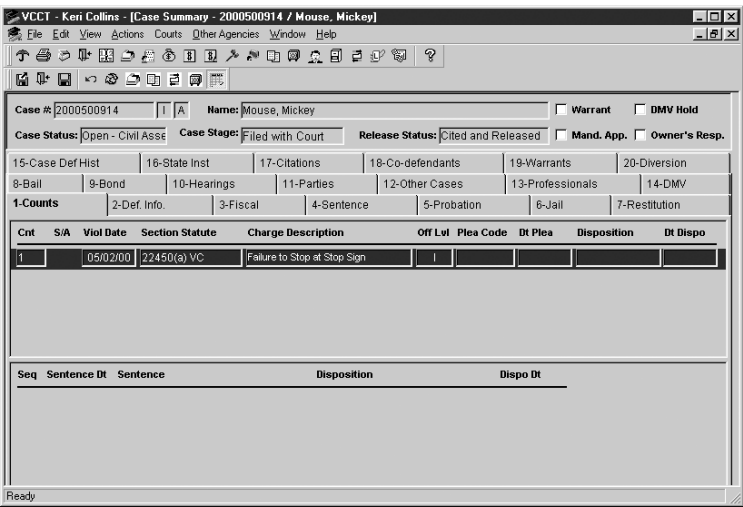
- “Vision” is the courts new criminal and traffic case management system. It allows the Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff and Probation Agency to operate off the same database, which provides greater efficiency and cost savings. Ventura is one of the few counties to have this capability.

- Multimedia kiosks are available at the Oaks Mall, Pacific View Mall and Oxnard Wal-Mart for paying traffic citations.

- Traffic citations can also be paid on-line using the court’s website.

- All Judicial Council and local Ventura Superior Court forms are available on the court’s website.

- Civil documents can be filed electronically using the Internet or by FAX through a court-approved vendor.



- Attorneys can hear tentative judicial rulings on civil and probate motions by calling the Tentative Rulings Recording at 650-4089.

- “Exhibit Station” equipment makes it easier for litigants to present and view information in the courtroom by allowing documents, pictures, videos, 3-D objects, x-rays, and computer-based presentations to be displayed on high-resolution monitors. Light pens can be used to annotate directly on the monitor without affecting the original document or image. ■

Awards

During 2001, the court was recognized for its efforts to bring new and innovative programs to the people of Ventura County and remain on the cutting edge through the receipt of several awards:

The Ralph N. Kleps Award for the Homeless Court Program: This award recognizes innovation in the courts and is presented annually by the California Judicial Council, the policymaking body for the state’s courts.



The Intergovernmental Solutions Award for the development and implementation of the “Vision” automated court case management system: This award was shared with the court’s other two partners in

the system, KPMG Consulting and the Orange County Superior Court. It was presented by the Federation of Government

Information Processing Councils.

The Top Ten Court Website Award presented by Justice Served Consulting Services: This award honors outstanding achievement in court Internet applications.

The Justice Achievement Award (honorable mention) for the Juror

Business Center: This award recognizes courts for meritorious projects and exemplary accomplishments that enhance the administration of justice and is presented by the National Association for Court Management. ■

WHERE DO YOUR TRAFFIC FINES GO?

Generally, traffic ticket (infraction) money is distributed approximately as follows:

State	28%
City	28%
County General Fund	17%
Other County Funds	27%
	100%

A Place for Kids: The Children’s Waiting Room

Parents conducting business with the court have one less thing to worry about when they take advantage of our Children’s Waiting Room.

Located at both the Ventura and Simi Valley courthouses, the Children’s Waiting Room is a safe and nonstressful place where parents can leave their children while conducting business with the court. It is furnished with a large supply of toys, games, books, puzzles, videos and computers. It is supervised by a full-time staff member assisted by volunteers.

Children must be at least 2½ years old and toilet trained. Parents may not leave the courthouse for any reason without first picking up their children. This service is not available for jurors.

The Children’s Waiting Room is provided by the court at no charge. It is available on a drop-in basis and no appointment is necessary. Since first opening in 1992, more than 27,000 children have spent time playing



inside these rooms.

The Children’s Waiting Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and 1:15p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at both court locations. It is located in Room 306 of the Hall of Justice and on the second floor of the East County Courthouse. To learn more about the Children’s Waiting Room or volunteer your services, please call (805) 654-2963. ■

Visit us on the Web



court calendars, access case information, pay traffic tickets, file documents and print copies of all Judicial Council and local court forms. This website also contains a large amount of general information on the court and its services and programs, ranging from judicial assignments, directions to court facilities, press releases and employment opportunities to information on legal self help, schools outreach and jury service.

Justice Served Consulting Services recently named our website one of the top ten court websites in the nation. By visiting our website at www.courts.countyofventura.org you can view

Additional useful information on the courts and self-help programs can be viewed at the California Judicial Council’s website: www.courtinfo.ca.gov. ■

Security Screening

Weapons screening was implemented at the Ventura Hall of Justice in 1999 and at the East County Courthouse in 2000. Everyone entering the courthouse, including employees, must pass through the screening station. These stations include both metal detectors and x-ray machines. Items such as pocket knives, knitting needles, scissors and mace are not allowed in the courthouse. This program is part of a statewide effort to increase public safety in court facilities. ■



SPECIALTY COURTS

Several new programs have been created in the past few years to address a vast array of issues affecting our communities in a more practical and effective manner. These include:

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT

The Unified Family Court assigns one judge to hear multiple cases involving the same family. These cases can include child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, family support, guardianship, or adoption. The unified approach allows legal issues to be resolved with greater balance and efficiency.

HOMELESS COURT

Homeless Court helps homeless people pay their fines for minor violations through community service. Special court sessions are held at homeless advocacy locations serving areas of the county most impacted by homelessness. Completion of community service hours is supervised and confirmed by an assigned social worker.

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

Juvenile Drug Court is a 12-month program for minors charged with drug violations. It consists of intensive treatment and close supervision by probation officers. The program seeks to decrease juvenile criminal recidivism, increase school attendance and performance, achieve sobriety, reduce juvenile arrest for drug and alcohol related offenses, and decrease violent crime.

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT

Dependency Drug Court is a program for mothers who have given birth to newborns prenatally exposed to alcohol or drugs. Participants receive intensive treatment and supervision while remaining under the jurisdiction of the court. The program goal is to provide the earliest possible intervention while strengthening the family’s ability to care for these children. Successful completion of the program results in early reunification of the family.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

Domestic Violence Court was initiated in 2001 to provide a more centralized approach to the handling of domestic violence cases. A single judge monitors offenders to confirm that they are enrolled in a 52-week anger management program and are meeting with their probation officer. The primary goal of the program is to reduce repeat offenses through a higher level of monitoring and the quick imposition of consequences for failure to comply with court orders.

COURTHOUSE TOURS

Courthouse tours for groups can be arranged through the Ventura County Bar Association’s Docent Program. For more information, call (805) 650-7599.

EXTENSIONS ON TRAFFIC CITATIONS:

The traffic clerks are authorized to grant one 28-day extension on your traffic citation. We receive a high number of traffic telephone calls each day and it is not unusual to wait to speak to a clerk. To avoid the wait you can also e-mail your request to us at traffic@mail.co.ventura.ca.us.

CLEARING CORRECTABLE CITATIONS:

Proof of correction can be obtained by having an authorized representative of the issuing agency fill out the Certificate of Correction located on the reverse side of your citation. A Department of Motor Vehicles’ (DMV) clerk may certify registration and/or drivers’ license violations. All registration violations must be corrected.

CHILD RESTRAINT LAW:

Effective January 1, 2002, a child must be properly secured in a child restraint seat (including boosters) until the child is either 6 years old or 60 lbs. There is a \$271 fine for a first offense of this violation.

Courts Statewide

As a result of the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997, courts statewide are no longer a part of county government, but are instead a “state funded entity” under direction of the California Judicial Council.

The Superior Court is part of a separate

branch of government independent from the district attorney, law enforcement and probation.

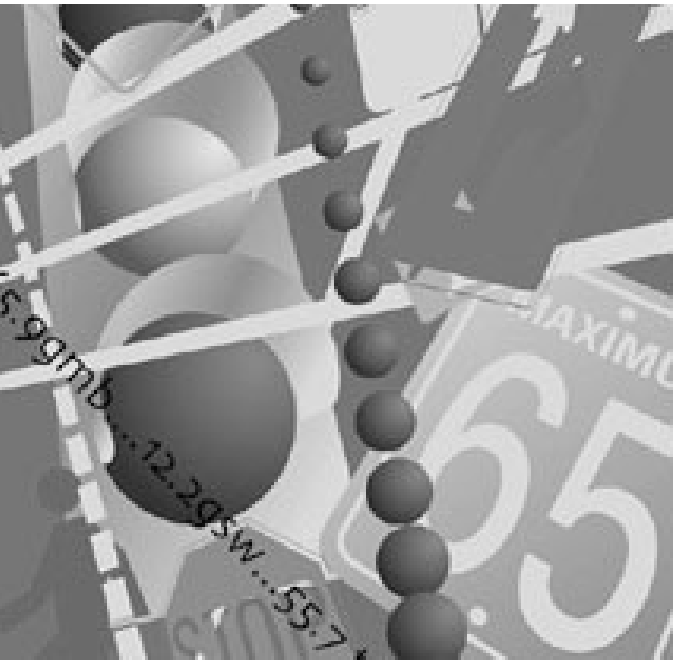
The Municipal Court was eliminated statewide and its functions merged with the Superior Court when the voters approved ballot Proposition 220 in 1998. ■

Traffic School

You may attend Traffic School, resulting in the dismissal of your citation, once every 18 months (from violation date to violation date). Your citation may not be for more than two moving violations and a seat belt violation. No mandatory appearance citations are eligible for traffic school without court approval.

To attend you must pay the fine plus an administrative fee. After the court receives the amount due on your citation, you will receive a notice granting permission to attend with a deadline for completion. The school will charge you an additional fee. Proof of any correctable violations on the citation must be resolved by the court before permission will be granted to attend traffic school.

The court regularly monitors all traffic schools to make sure they are complying with



Department of Motor Vehicles regulations. If you are eligible to attend traffic school and choose not to, your automobile insurance may be adversely affected. ■

Night Traffic Court

Night court is available for contesting traffic infractions on the second Thursday of the month in Ventura and the fourth Wednesday of the month in Simi Valley. Court starts at 5:00 p.m. and a reservation is required. You can sign up for Night Court by calling the court or e-mailing the clerk at traffic@mail.co.ventura.ca.us. ■

Hall of Justice (Ventura): (805) 654-2611

East County Courthouse (Simi Valley): (805) 582-8080

TRAFFIC TICKETS:

For adult and juvenile infraction citations, a courtesy notice will be mailed to you at the address on your citation within three weeks from the date of the citation.

There are several ways to pay your citation:

- Pay by credit card by calling (805) 654-2611. There is a fee for this service.
- Pay by credit card using the court’s website: www.courts.countyofventura.org
- Pay the amount indicated by mail.
- Use the Multimedia Kiosks located at: Wal-Mart (Oxnard), Pacific View Mall (Ventura), and The Oaks Mall (Thousand Oaks) during mall hours. There is a fee for this service.
- Pay the Court Clerk at the Oxnard DMV located at 4050 South Saviers Road in Oxnard.
- Pay the Court Clerk at the Hall of Justice in Ventura or East County Courthouse in Simi Valley.

Monthly payments can be arranged by appearing at the clerk’s counter. To see the commissioner you must first appear at the clerk’s counter. Refer to your courtesy notice for other court information.

Jury Service – Did you know,,,?

Jurors are selected at random using voter registration and DMV lists.

If your name appears differently on these lists you could receive more than one summons for jury service.

Once summoned, the term of service is the duration of one trial. At the conclusion of the initial day of service, jurors who are not sworn to serve on a trial or not ordered to return for subsequent days of jury selection will have completed their jury service for a minimum of one year.

By law, employers may not terminate or discriminate against an employee for taking time off to serve on a trial jury as long as the employee first gives reasonable notice that they are required to serve.

A portion of each morning’s juror orientation is conducted by a judge.

Prospective jurors for trials that take place at the East County Courthouse in Simi Valley now report directly to the East County Courthouse for duty. In the past, jurors reported to the Ventura courthouse first and were then sent to the East County Courthouse as needed.

Each prospective juror is given a Juror

Handbook that explains what is expected of them, the different types of cases, how a jury is selected, how the trial will proceed, the role of the various court officers, and a glossary of legal terms.

Certain severe financial hardships, persons who provide care to dependent children under the age of 12, and nursing mothers may be exempt from serving.

Potential jurors are allowed one postponement of up to 90 days.

Assistive listening devices are provided for hearing-impaired jurors. The Jury Services office also has a dedicated TDD telephone number: (805) 654-2922.

Potential jurors now have two options when they receive a summons for jury service. They can pre-select a specific day of the week to report or choose to be on telephone standby. Choosing a specific day allows a juror more control over their schedule. Telephone standby requires the juror to call a recording each evening, starting Sunday evening, to see if their group is required to report to the courthouse the next day. If at the end of the week the juror’s group has not been called to the court, service is complete. ■



Jury Service

The most common complaint of jurors is the time seemingly wasted sitting in the Jury Assembly Room. What might appear to be a waste of time is actually being used by the judge and attorneys working on resolving cases. Many cases are resolved when the parties realize that trial is imminent because citizens such as you are here, ready to serve your community. Your attendance is an important element in the process and is truly appreciated. ■



Juror Business Center

The Juror Business Center provides prospective jurors with a quiet environment where they can get work done while waiting to be called to serve on a panel. It is equipped with individual workstations, phones, data ports, a photocopy machine and a fax machine. The center provides prospective jurors with the opportunity to lessen the impact of a day’s absence from their job and better utilize their time. It has been especially useful to business people who can keep in touch with their office, college students who can take advantage of this quiet time to work on their assignments, and anyone who needs to take care of personal business. ■

WHAT IS TEEN COURT

Teen Court is a program designed to direct minors who have not yet entered the Juvenile Justice System away from the formal court while holding them accountable for their actions before a jury of their peers. It brings together juvenile offenders, parents, and peers in order to determine logical and natural consequences for the offense through the creation of a “teen jury system”.

Teen Court is administered almost entirely by students. Except for the judge, all other participants are students.

These are real cases referred from the Ventura County Probation Agency where teenagers have admitted an offense that is eligible for teen court, and have elected to be judged by their peers in determining the sentence.

The program is designed to give young people an opportunity to take responsibility for their actions, provide restitution to the victims and the community, and give the community an active role in reducing the likelihood of repeated delinquent acts.

Teen Court is also an educational program. It seeks to teach young people about their responsibilities under the law and seeks to teach offenders and students that laws benefit everyone.

One of the requirements of students appearing before Teen Court is that they sit as jurors deciding the consequences of other peer offenders. It is intended that they will see themselves as part of the solution, rather than one of those to whom things happen, and gain a new and valuable perspective on where they fit into society.

Any Ventura County high school student who completes a training program and is willing to be involved for one or more semesters is eligible to participate. Teen Court meets once or twice a month after school at participating high schools. Applications may be obtained from high school counselors. For more information, call (805) 654-3879.

Superior Court of California, County of Ventura’s
ANNUAL REPORT & COMMUNITY GUIDE TO COURT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

JUDGES

- Hon. Bruce A. Clark
Presiding Judge
- Hon. John R. Smiley
Assistant Presiding Judge
- Hon. Brian J. Back
Hon. Edward F. Brodie
Hon. Frederick H. Bysshe
Hon. Charles W. Campbell, Jr.
Hon. James P. Cloninger
Hon. Tari L. Cody
Hon. Donald D. Coleman
Hon. Herbert Curtis III
Hon. John E. Dobroth
Hon. Arturo F. Gutierrez
Hon. Steven E. Hintz
Hon. Thomas J. Hutchins
Hon. Melinda A. Johnson
Hon. Kent M. Kellegrew
Hon. Barry B. Klopfer
Hon. Barbara A. Lane
Hon. David W. Long
Hon. Kevin J. McGee
Hon. Vincent J. O’Neill, Jr.
Hon. Roland N. Purnell
Hon. Glen M. Reiser
Hon. Ken W. Riley
Hon. Rebecca S. Riley
Hon. Henry J. Walsh
Hon. Colleen Toy White

COMMISSIONERS:

- Hon. Gary K. Barrett
Hon. Manuel J. Covarrubias
Hon. Ruben De La Torre
Hon. John H. Pattie

COURT ADMINISTRATION

- Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer and Clerk
- Margie Borjon-Miller
Deputy Executive Officer
- Jeanne Caughell
Deputy Executive Officer
- Linda Finn
Deputy Executive Officer
- Robert Sherman
Deputy Executive Officer
- Rochelle Terrell
Deputy Executive Officer

Superior Court Locations in Ventura County



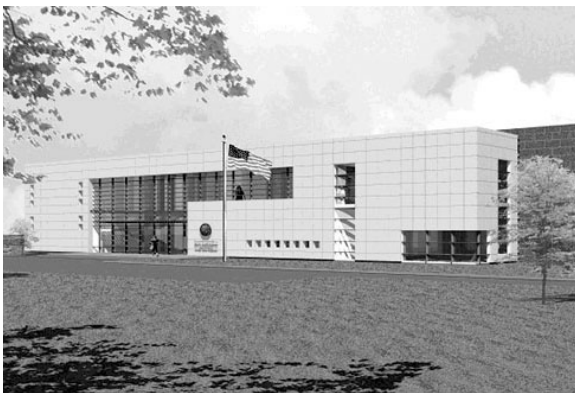
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009



East County Courthouse
3855-F Alamo Street
Simi Valley, California 93063



Oxnard Self-Help Legal Access Center
1500 Colonia Road, #20
Oxnard, California 93030



Juvenile Justice Complex Courthouse
4333 Vineyard Avenue
Oxnard, California 93030
Scheduled to Open November, 2003

COMMENTS

Perhaps you have an idea that you would like to share with the court, a program you would like to see implemented, or simply want more information about existing programs and services. Now you can submit your ideas, suggestions and comments on-line through our website at www.courts.countyofventura.org. You can also mail your comments to: Superior Court Administration, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93009.

Getting in Touch / Department Phone Numbers

Hall of Justice, Ventura

Appeals	654-2269
Civil	654-2609
Collections	654-3888
Criminal	654-2611
Family Law	654-2261
Family Court Services.....	662-6694
Fiscal Services.....	654-2962
Jury Services.....	654-2256
Juvenile Filings	654-3084
Probate.....	654-2264
Records	654-2880
Reporting Services	654-2212
Restitution	654-3888
Secretarial Support.....	654-5021
Self-Help Information	654-3962
Small Claims	654-2610
Traffic (adult and juvenile)	654-2611

East County Courthouse, Simi Valley

Civil	582-8086
Collections	582-8066
Criminal	582-8080
Family Law	582-8086
Small Claims	582-8078
Traffic	582-8080

*All numbers are in the 805 area code.



*Our Court is Here
for the People we Serve.*